

Thomas Handler
Professor
Department of Physics and Astronomy

Candidate Statement, President-Elect

I joined the UT faculty in 1977 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics. In 1979 I became an Assistant Professor and rose through the ranks to Full Professor in 1992. During this time period, I maintained an active research program in experimental elementary particle physics and have been involved in experiments that were conducted at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, at Argonne National Laboratory, and at CERN in Geneva Switzerland. I have been an active reviewer of proposals for various agencies within the Department of Energy.

I primarily have taught the introductory Physics course for both engineering students and the pre-health students. In addition to the introductory Physics courses I have also taught the introductory Astronomy courses. In addition over the years I have taught junior and senior level Physics courses. Recently I developed a course on the relationship that exists between Science and Public Policy. This course was developed in conjunction with the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy, of which I am a Faculty Associate. The impetus for this course partially came from the lobbying work that I had done in Congress on behalf of my field of Physics.

While my primary roles are in teaching and research, I have been active in committee work at Departmental, College, and University levels throughout my tenure. I initially served on the Faculty Senate from 2004-2007 and was on the Research Council which I also chaired from 2004-2007. I rejoined the Faculty Senate in 2011 and currently sit on Research Council. During this current time on the Research Council, I chaired the Chancellor's Awards Committee in 2011 and 2012. Recently I served on the College of Arts and Sciences Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2009-2012 and chaired the committee 2011-2012.

There are many challenges that face the University of Tennessee, Knoxville that affect the Administration, the Faculty, and the Students of this, the Flagship University for the state of Tennessee. These challenges arise from both within the University and from external agents. And how we address these challenges will be important in setting the future course of the University. During my time here at UTK, many changes have occurred, some for the better and some not so. I would be honored to help lead the Faculty, in conjunction with the Administration in our shared governance role, in navigating through the challenges that the University will encounter.